

LABORATORY GIVES QUEEN ROYAL WELCOME

NUCLEAR BLASTS PROPOSED FOR ROCKET PROPULSION

A method of propelling a rocket by a series of small nuclear explosions is being studied by a group of theoretical physicists and mathematicians at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory.

This method was first outlined in 1947 by Dr. Stanislaw Ulam, Research Advisor at the Laboratory and co-developer of the hydrogen bomb. It was later taken up and extended by T. B. Taylor, former Staff Member at Los Alamos, who is now with General Atomic.

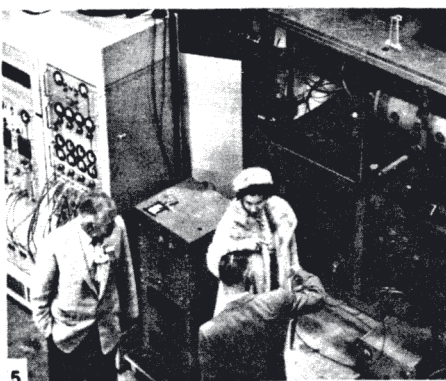
Studies at Los Alamos will determine how effectively blasts from explosions can be directed to get the maximum push on the rocket from given masses of exploding materials. Each explosion would give the rocket an extra push forward. Care has to be taken to avoid subjecting the rocket structure to excessively high pressures and temperatures, but Dr. Ulam believes this method might give several times more push for each pound of propellant than by the reactor method.

If studies are successful, they will point the way to a possible method of propelling space ships through the solar system.

In development of this concept, the Laboratory will share ideas and information with the group at General Atomic, which has a contract to consider the possible structure and operation of such a space ship.

QUEEN'S VISIT IN PICTURES

The visit of Queen Frederika of Greece to Los Alamos and the Laboratory Saturday is depicted in pictures at right. (1) Boy Scouts lead the welcoming parade up Central Avenue to the Lodge. (2) Left to right: Princess Sophie, daughter of the Queen, Senator Clinton P. Anderson, Queen Frederika and Dr. Jane Hall, Assistant Director of the Laboratory, enter the Lodge. (3) Queen and Princess begin their tour. (4) Queen visits Health Research Laboratory with her Aide-de-Camp Elias Deros, Dr. Hall, Dr. Irene Boone and Dr. Wright Langham, H-4 Group Leader. (5) Queen discusses Project Sherwood with Dr. Keith Boyer, P-15 Group Leader and Dr. Darol Froman, Technical Associate Director of the Laboratory. (6) Dr. Norris Bradbury, Laboratory Director and Dr. Hall leave the Physics building with the Queen.



Photos by LASL Graphic Arts Group